PROCEEDINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY OF REPRESENTATIVE RYOTS AND MERCHANTS FROM ALL TALUKS OF THE PROVINCE OF MYSORE, HELD AT MYSORE ON THE 9TH OCTOBER 1886.

The *sixth* Annual Assembly of Representative Ryots and Merchants of Mysore was held on the 9th October 1886 at 12 noon in the Rangacharlu Memorial Hall, the Dewan presiding. There were present on the occasion, the Resident and his staff, the Councillors of the Mysore State, the Judges of the Chief Court, the Heads of Departments, the Chief and other Secretaries of the Government and the Deputy Commissioners of Bangalore, Tumkur, Mysore, Hassan and Shimoga.

2. The following address was read by the Dewan.

GENTLEMEN :—I have much pleasure in laying before you to-day, by command of His Highness the Maharaja, a statement showing the principal features of the administration of the Province during the past official year ; and in doing so, it is particularly gratifying to me to be able to premise that this is the first year since the Rendition of the Province, in which the prospects of the season have occasioned no anxiety to His Highness' Government. At every previous meeting of this Assembly reference had to be made to a failure of the rains, more or less general, and in my address to you last year, I dwelt at considerable length on the scanty rainfall of two successive years, and the consequent apprehensions of widespread scarcity and distress,—apprehensions which at the time of our last meeting were beginning to be dispelled by the advent of a favorable north-east monsoon. In October and the following months copious and seasonable rain fell, which allowed of fair crops being raised in every part of the Province, and the year on the whole proved to be one of average agricultural prosperity. Again during the current year the season has so far been exceptionally good ; the rain-fall up to the end of the last month in the dry Districts on the north and north-east is fully twice the quantity gauged during the corresponding months of the last year ; almost all our important tanks are already full or nearly full ; and altogether the year promises to be one of the most prosperous we have had for a long time past.

I now proceed to read to you the usual statements, showing the income and expenditure under all heads except the Railway, which I reserve for separate treatment.

Receipts.

	1884—85	1885—86.
	Rs.	Rs.
Land Revenue	66,83,886	76,41,241
Excise	11,79,625	11,68,722
Forest	6,57,564	8,83,098
Stamps	4,42,791	4,80,479
Sayer	3,40,699	3,91,139
Mohatarfa	2,65,102	2,94,927
Law and Justice including Jail receipts ...	69,490	63,970
Post Office...	61,607	65,303
Registration...	44,339	50,459
Amrut Mahal	34,424	68,464
Education	32,348	24,322
Salt	24,464	21,623
Public Works	9,296	13,854
Sale proceeds of uncurrent copper coins ...	3,103	2,936
Miscellaneous	2,22,237	2,60,216
Total...	1,00,70,975	1,14,30,754

Expenditure.

A.

Subsidy	24,50,000	24,50,000
Civil List	10,00,000	10,00,000
Interest on Public Debt	5,17,531	4,94,793
Political pensions including allowances in lieu of Jahgir	1,04,048	1,02,630
Military Force	7,56,939	7,35,100
Total...	48,28,518	47,82,523

B.

Administration and Public Departments ...	2,04,097	2,04,119
Land Revenue charges. Deputy Commissioners and Establishments ...	1,35,190	1,40,270
Land Revenue charges. Assistant Commissioners and Establishments	53,761	58,134
Land Revenue charges. Taluk Establishments	3,15,917	3,13,316
Land Revenue charges. Revenue Survey	2,38,918	2,31,026
Land Revenue charges. Inam Department	7,985	8,265
Land Revenue charges. Remuneration of village servants ...	2,87,724	2,32,315
Land Revenue charges. Other items	32,452	20,450
Excise	18,300	15,576
Forest	2,48,028	2,26,070
Stamps	18,103	15,524
Sayer	14,505	13,632
Stationery and Printing	53,473	60,516
Amrut Mahal...	32,104	36,421
Topographical Survey	80,483	65,391
Total...	17,41,040	16,41,025

C.

	1884—85.	1885—86.
	Rs.	Rs.
Law and Justice including Jails	7,58,883	7,38,016
Police	4,88,665	5,08,606
Education	1,45,130	1,56,429
Muzarayi	2,80,955	2,96,819
Medical	1,52,994	1,47,945
Superannuation pensions and gratuities ...	2,70,964	2,56,561
Public Works	8,93,687	11,32,299
Post Office	1,26,660	1,26,755
Registration	25,972	26,672
Minor Departments	17,666	19,123
British Officers' furlough and absentee allowances, retiring gratuities, compensation allowances and leave and pensionary contributions	65,621	42,590
Miscellaneous	1,78,846	2,41,594
Total...	33,86,043	36,93,409
Grand Total...	99,55,601	1,01,16,957

It will thus be seen that the ordinary revenue of the State was Rs. 1,14,30,754 against Rs. 1,00,70,957 in 1884—85, and the expenditure Rs. 1,01,16,957 against Rs. 99,55,601.

In the statement of income the most striking feature is the large increase of 9½ lakhs under Land Revenue. It includes a sum of 3½ lakhs which was collected out of the deferred demand of 1884—85; during which year, owing to the bad season, considerable remissions and postponements of revenue to the aggregate extent of 5½ lakhs were found necessary. If the deferred collections of 1884—85 (*viz.* about 3½ lakhs) be deducted from the land revenue receipts of 1885—86, the income pertaining to the latter year is reduced to about 73 lakhs, which, you may remember, was the maximum amount of annual land revenue ever realized in Mysore.

The history of this important item of our revenue during the past half-century shows continued improvement during the first four decades, when the averages were 50¼, 53, 67½, and 72¾ lakhs, respectively. Then there was a great fall due to the disastrous famine of 1876—78; but during the past five years, there has been going on a steady process of recovery.

The pre-famine figure of 73 lakhs was reached in 1883—84 and again in 1885—86, and the demand for the intervening year 1884—85 was also about 73 lakhs, though, owing to the exceptional circumstance already adverted to, a much smaller amount was actually realized before the close of that year. Thus our land revenue may now be said to have recovered from the effects of the famine of 1876—78, and we may fairly assume that the extent of land now under cultivation is about the same as before that famine.

The improvement under "Forests" was mainly due to the revival of the market for sandalwood from the depression of the previous year, and to a smaller extent to an increased supply of Railway sleepers.

All other items of revenue participate in the general improvement due to a prosperous season.

The total expenditure in 1885—86 was Rs. 1,01,16,957 and exceeded that of the previous year by Rs. 1,61,356. The increase under Public Works alone was Rs. 2,38,612, the usual annual grant of 9½ lakhs having had to be raised to 12 lakhs for the improvement of Irrigation Works under circumstances which I explained to you last year.

Deducting expenditure from income, the surplus of the year amounted to Rs. 13,13,797 which however included the realizations on account of the previous year's arrears under all heads to the extent of about 4½ lakhs.

The budget estimates of receipts and disbursements for the current year are based mainly upon the actuals of the two previous years.

A total estimated expenditure of Rs. 1,10,53,000 is provided against an actual of Rs. 1,01,17,000 in 1885—86. The large increase of Rs. 9,41,000 is accounted for as follows :—

Provision has been made for the addition of Rs. 3,00,000 to His Highness the Maharaja's Civil List in accordance with the arrangement made at the time of the Rendition. The reconstitution of abolished Districts and Taluks accounts for an increase of about ¾ lakh in Revenue Establishments, while the Office of Inspector General of Police, Police Assistants for the two new Districts and the reconstitution of the Sub-Judge's Court at Mysore involve an additional expenditure of about Rs. 36,000. The large increase of Rs. 1,86,000 in the remuneration of village servants is due to the fact that the payments to these servants which had been held in abeyance in some of the recently settled taluks have to be paid in full, until alteration of the present system. An increased expenditure of Rs. 1,16,000 under 'Forests' is anticipated, owing to proposed extension both of felling and planting operations. Entries under "Mint" appear on both sides of the account, and are nominal transactions referring to the supply of copper and small silver coins. The Public Works Department grant being fixed at 12 lakhs as in the previous year accounts for an excess of Rs. 68,000 over that year's actual expenditure of Rs. 11,32,000. A grant-in-aid of Rs. 60,000 has been given for sanitary improvements in the city of Mysore.

The foregoing are the principal heads under which the budget for the current year provides for an increased expenditure. These increases amount in the aggregate to over 9 lakhs of rupees. But I may here add that the budget provides for a maximum expenditure according to sanctioned scale, and that savings anticipated are likely to reduce the budget provision by about 1½ lakhs.

Railway.—On the State Railway during the past year, the capital expenditure incurred amounted to Rs. 4,16,833 and was almost exclusively on the Tumkur-Gubbi section. The gross earnings of the entire system of 140 miles amounted to Rs. 4,43,021, and deducting the maintenance charges of Rs. 2,27,048 left a surplus of Rs. 2,15,973. This net income represented a return of 3·31 per cent on the capital outlay of Rs. 65,18,777 up to 31st March 1886.

Last year I explained to you at some length the nature of the negotiations then in progress for the transfer of the Railway on hypothecation to the Southern Mahratta Company. Since then, the contract with that Company has been concluded by the Secretary of State acting on behalf of Mysore, and in accordance with that contract, a loan of £ 1,200,000 has been raised by the Company and the proceeds paid to the credit of the Secretary of State. The loan, owing to the condition of the money market of the day, had to be raised at an interest of 4 per cent. The rate of guaranteed interest payable by Mysore to the Company will therefore be 4 per cent instead of 3½ per cent I mentioned last year. Also this higher rate of interest has to be paid upon a much larger capital than what I specified on that occasion; and in consequence of this, the financial forecast I then made has now to be considerably modified. In other respects the arrangement concluded appears to be identical with what I described at the last Annual Meeting, but as a copy of the contract and the further instructions of the Government of India on the subject have not yet been received, I am at present unable to give you fuller information or to say what definite financial arrangements are required for meeting the large annual liability for guaranteed interest, or for the repayment of the loan at the end of 50 years, when, by the terms of the contract, it seems to be repayable.

Under instructions from the Government of India the actual transfer of the management of the Railway to the Southern Mahratta Company was effected on 1st July 1886. Thus the interests of this wealthy and powerful Company in the development of the open line and the early construction of the extension have become identical with ours. The Company's staff will ere long take the field, and, actual construction once begun, I have not the slightest doubt that the work will be pushed forward with all possible speed.

A proposal to have a more direct and shorter line than that followed by the Mysore Engineers from Gubbi to Harihar was at one time under discussion. You will be glad to hear that His Highness' Government still adhere to their original opinion that the route most suitable for

the trade requirements of this Province is decidedly the more westerly, though somewhat circuitous, one *viâ* Tiptur, Arsikere, Kadur and Birur; and there is little probability of this route being changed.

In view of the possible extension in the future of our Railway system in the direction of Bellary, a line from Bangalore to Hindupur has been surveyed and is now being marked out.

I give below a statement showing the entire cost of the State Railway (in construction and surveys) from the commencement up to the date of its transfer to the Southern Mahratta Company :—

Expenditure on Railways and on Railway Surveys up to 30th June 1886.

i.—(*a*)	Capital on construction of open line of 140 miles		65,14,690
(*b*)	Excess of interest at 4 per cent over net earnings calculated according to P. W. Code		5,79,020
	Total Railway Construction.....		70,93,710
ii.—*Gubbi-Harihar Survey*—			
(*a*)	Capital on Surveys including sleepers provided		3,49,176
(*b*)	Interest thereon calculated as above		16,262
			3,65,438
iii.—*Other Surveys.*—(Hindupur, Shimoga and Nanjangud)—			
(*a*)	Capital ... 38,294		
(*b*)	Interest ... 1,601	... ...	39,895
	Grand Total.....		74,99,043

Financial Retrospect.—As five years have now elapsed since the Rendition of the Province, a brief survey of the progress of our finances during that period will probably be of some interest to you. I therefore proceed to place before you a short statement showing the result of the transactions under all heads of revenue and expenditure, during the five years from 1st April 1881 to 31st March 1886.

Cr.	Rs.	*Dr.*	Rs.
Opening Revenue cash balance on 31st March 1881	24,07,438	Expenditure under all heads except Railway	5,21,52,468
Revenue receipts under all heads for 5 years from 1st April 1881 to 31st March 1886	5,52,08,280	Expenditure on Railway Capital ...	41,97,295
Railway Loan	20,00,000	Total Expenditure.....	5,63,49,763
		Closing Revenue cash balance on 31st March 1886	32,65,955
Total.....	5,96,15,718	Total.....	5,96,15,718

It will be seen from this statement that the Maharaja's Government started with a cash balance of Rs. 24,07,438, and that by the addition of the surplus of the next five years, it now amounts to Rs. 32,65,955, that is to say, an increase of Rs. 8,58,517 has been secured. In addition to this we have been able to invest in the construction of the Mysore-Gubbi Railway the large sum of Rs. 41,97,295, twenty lakhs being obtained by the Railway Loan of 1882, and the remainder (Rs. 21,97,295) being provided out of current ordinary revenue. Thus the total of five years' savings and investments amounts to about 30½ lakhs. This result, satisfactory as far as it goes, has not however been achieved without to some extent starving ordinary Public Works, such as tanks, channels and roads, and without resorting to the most stringent measures of retrenchment in all Departments, and in the case of some Departments, even beyond the limit of complete efficiency.

This policy was pursued, as you are aware, not with a view to accumulate an idle surplus in the Treasury, but for the express purpose of providing funds for the construction of the Railway. The importance of this work for purposes of famine protection was brought to prominent notice by the disastrous events of 1876—78, and it was commenced by the British Government who, before the Rendition, spent over 23 lakhs upon it. Immediately after the Rendition the Durbar resolved to complete it up to Tiptur at as early a date as possible, and to obtain the funds required for this purpose by a large reduction of the cash balance, by a loan of 20 lakhs and by retrenchments in all Departments. The measures thus adopted were eminently successful; for

we have been able to complete the Railway as far as Gubbi (140 miles) and (but for the instructions of the Government of India in connection with the proposed negotiations with the Southern Mahratta Railway Company) we could also have carried it to Tiptur, a further distance of 32 miles. But as I explained to you on previous occasions, the extension of our system so as to connect it with that of the Southern Mahratta Company with its outlet on the Western Coast, is a work which cannot be done out of the ordinary revenue within a time which can be regarded as reasonable, or without involving a considerable neglect of the claims of numerous minor works of vital importance. From this point of view the surrender of the Railway to foreign capitalists is a measure of distinct advantage to the State. It provides within a brief period a complete Railway system which we so much need, and at the same time it leaves us free to devote our ordinary revenue resources to their more legitimate purposes.

Irrigation.—First and foremost among these stand "Irrigation Works," upon which the well-being of Mysore so much depends. The annual expenditure upon these works since the Rendition is given below :—

	Rs.
1881—82	3,28,368
1882—83	2,85,297
1883—84	3,54,189
1884—85	3,41,520
1885—86	4,54,145
1886—87	6,85,800 (estimate)

Public Works Department Policy.—You will see from these figures that the prospect of the transfer of the Railway to foreign capitalists enabled us in 1885—86 to devote to irrigation a larger sum than theretofore, and during the present year, with the completion of the Railway transfer, we propose to spend the large sum of 6½ lakhs on restoring, improving and extending irrigation works of all kinds. As our financial prosperity so much depends upon the vicissitudes of the seasons, and as years of depression alternate with periods of plenty, it is of course impossible to forecast with exactitude the extent to which the resources of the State can be annually devoted to the development and improvement of irrigation works ; but I can assure you that no effort shall be wanting on our part to assign for this purpose the largest allotments compatible with other demands on our finances. This may be accepted as the cardinal feature of our Public Works Department policy ; for, we are conscious that a vast deal remains to be done in the way of general improvements to our truly magnificent system of tanks, of the reconstruction of ruined abandoned tanks likely to be remunerative, of the restoration and, where practicable, the extension of channels drawn from the Cauvery and other rivers; of the construction of the great Marikanave Reservoir and smaller new works where required. The magnitude of these works in the aggregate is so great that we accept it as a settled principle that our annual operations on them ought to be limited only by the extent of the resources at our disposal for the time being.

Special Irrigation Projects.—The liberal provision for Irrigation Works made in the current year's budget has led to several important works being undertaken. Among these, I may make special mention of—

(i) the Rampur Channel development and extension, from which considerable benefit, I am confident, will accrue. The project for this is now before me ;

(ii) an extension of the Virjanadi Channel, the feasibility of which is at present under investigation ; and

(iii) a similar extension of the Maddur Ané Channel ; and improvements to the Rámasamudram and Rajaparamésvari Channels, which are now under execution.

That the more important of our old tanks are not being neglected, a glance at the items of the Budget will show, upwards of 150 restorations or improvements of large tanks being provided for, apart from numerous smaller tanks.

In my address last year, I described to you the proposal for the tentative introduction into a few selected taluks of a scheme for enlisting the co-operation of the ryots in the matter of the maintenance of the smaller irrigation tanks scattered over the country. It was then in contemplation to apply the scheme to tanks with a revenue of less than Rs. 500, but after consultation with experienced officers and in the interests of the ryots themselves, it was decided to reduce the 500 rupee limit to one of 300. With this modification, the scheme has been introduced into eight selected taluks, one in each District, and is reported to be in operation. The experiment is being closely watched by the Government, and I am glad to find that the local Revenue officers concerned are directing their best energies to ensure its success.

Referring to the Marikanavé Reservoir, I said last year that the project was being examined by the Government. On mature consideration of the general prospects of the country and the financial bearings of this great work, it has been deemed prudent to defer further action for the present owing to the superior claims of smaller works more likely to produce immediate increased prosperity. To defer indefinitely a work of such importance is not in our mind ; for it must be acknowledged that its cost, great though it be, sinks into insignificance when weighed against what Government holds to be the imperative duty of famine protection in the arid tracts of Chitaldroog. It is true

that recent professional opinion tends to show that the difficulties and risks of the work proposed are greater than had previously been apprehended by our Engineers. The cost of getting in the foundation alone across the river has been roughly estimated at 3 lakhs of rupees, and there is apparently the danger of even entire waste of that large amount, should the rock prove treacherous or unsound in any part. Nevertheless the work will not be lost sight of when funds sufficient are forthcoming to justify a reasonable expenditure in the attempt to secure a perfectly reliable foundation on which to commence the building of the great dam.

During the next few years of Railway extension, the demand on account of guaranteed interest will not allow of our undertaking so costly a work. Moreover there are, as already stated, several comparatively smaller works which have a prior claim upon us as they are likely to lead to a large immediate extension of cultivation in parts of the country much more thickly populated than the dry taluks of Chitaldroog. These considerations have led to the formation of a new Public Works Department Division called the "Channel Division" to deal with the restoration and extension of channels drawn from the Cauvery, Hemavati, Kapini and Lakshmanatirtha. These important works are, as I before pointed out, being pushed on with vigour and may absorb the whole of our available resources for the next 3 or 4 years.

Other Public Works.—Before taking leave of this subject of special public works, I think it well to say that the wants of the Province in regard to roads and bridges are not being forgotten, and that irrigation works, though of first importance, are not being attended to, to the exclusion of our means of internal communication. These will always receive their due share of attention and of money, and I may mention that this year, whilst we have several minor roads and railway feeders in hand, we have also under execution two important bridges, that over the Hebhalla between Maddur and Malvalli, and that over the Sulikere river between Harihar and Malebennur. A project for a bridge of the first importance—that across the Yagachi river close to Belur, the pressing necessity for which was prominently brought to His Highness' notice during his tour last year—is now before me, and I hope soon to be in a position to accord sanction to the estimate.

Before concluding this section of my address, I may state for your information that the average amount of provincial revenue devoted annually to public works during the past five years is Rs. 9,90,374, as compared with Rs. 16,23,290 in the five years immediately preceding the late famine. During the current year, as already stated, it is proposed to spend 12 lakhs.

Gold Mining.—The recent revival of the Gold Mining industry under the influence of the favorable results obtained by the Mysore Gold Mining Company in Kolar promises to have an important bearing on the prosperity of the country. Mining operations are being already prosecuted with renewed vigour by several companies in the neighbourhood of the Mysore Company's mines, while elsewhere, other companies are preparing to begin or resume work. In the Kolar field especially the works undertaken are on an important scale. Shafts of great depth have been sunk through the most promising reefs, costly machinery has been erected for extracting and crushing the ore, and substantial buildings have sprung up all round for the housing of those engaged on the mines.

It is now beyond doubt that gold bearing strata have been reached and gold in considerable quantities is being brought to the surface day by day. Already have Rs. 33,368 been paid into His Highness' Treasury by one Company alone (namely, the Mysore Company) as royalty for the gold extracted. But in forecasting the future of this industry, it is needless to say that it behoves us to speak with great caution, for, in Gold Mining everywhere, there is always an element of speculation and uncertainty. But there can be no harm in my referring to a fact, of which you are so well aware, that history and tradition alike point to Mysore as a country which, in the past, produced large quantities of gold, and that there are to be seen in the present day the remains of extensive ancient workings scattered all over the country. If the experience gained in the Kolar field can be accepted as a guide, there is little reason to doubt that the extraction of the precious metal in remunerative quantities in various parts of the Province awaits only the application of modern appliances on a suitable scale. His Highness' Government are therefore prepared to afford to the enterprise—as indeed they have always afforded—every facility compatible with the rights of the people and the claims of the State. It has always been our object to attract *bonâ-fide* working companies to the enterprise. In granting 30 year leases of one square mile blocks instead of 20 year leases of smaller blocks as elsewhere, we have aimed at offering adequate inducement to the employment of large capital. In levying a royalty on actual yield instead of a heavy acreage assessment so prohibitive in the early stage of mining operations, we have sought to protect the permanent interests of Government without hampering the development of the mines. Our policy, though conceived on such essentially liberal lines, has not, it must be admitted, as yet attracted to the enterprize sound working companies to the full extent we anticipated, in parts of the Province beyond the Kolar field. Such companies most naturally object to pay a large price for a thing of unknown value, and their attitude of caution is justified by the experience of their predecessors who suffered from the material reduction of their working capital by the heavy prices paid to intermediate concessionaires. To what extent our present system must be modified so as to place our auriferous lands within the direct reach of sound working companies is thus a question which calls for an early solution. As at present advised, His Highness' Government are of opinion that the present stage of the mining enterprize in the Province would justify their seeking to solve this question somewhat on the following lines :—

1*st.* To leave the whole country open for the operations of prospecting parties free of charge.

2*ndly.* To guarantee to each prospector the mining rights over a fixed quantity of land, provided that he conforms to prescribed conditions of diligent prospecting by means of suitable boring and other operations.

3*rdly.* To require that the selection by him be made within a prescribed reasonable time his claim being restricted to the locality over which he has actually prospected.

4*thly.* To provide that before the Government actually make the grant, the necessary working capital shall be forthcoming; and that in default, such prospector's mining rights shall be forfeited;

5*thly.* To fix the extent of land for each grant so as to bear a previously prescribed proportion to the actual amount of working capital forthcoming; and

6*thly.* To stipulate for the due commencement and prosecution of work on a scale commensurate with the extent of the grant and for a moderate royalty, regulated at first according to the proportion of gold extracted to quartz crushed, but never exceeding a fixed maximum rate on the actual out-turn of gold.

Such a system will, it is believed, reduce to a minimum all elements of risk and uncertainty for the investor. The comparatively small outlay required for efficient prospecting operations is not likely to deter the intending investor as he will be able to start such operations with a distinct Government guarantee for the grant of a fixed area, when the results of prospecting induce him to demand such a grant. By adopting such a system, His Highness' Government hope to be able to place the whole of our auriferous lands within the direct reach of English capital, and thus to ensure the extension and permanence of the enterprize in Mysore.

With a view to add to the knowledge of the public concerning our mineral resources and the history of Gold Mining under ancient dynasties, a small prospecting party has been organized for the purpose of locating on the sheets of the Topographical Survey the principal runs of gold-bearing strata as indicated by the remains of ancient workings, and for drawing up a general report on the subject after a careful examination of the whole Province. This work is expected to be completed within the next few months, after which the State will be in a position to arrange for the verification by a Government geologist of the results reported by the prospecting party and to place the whole of the information thus secured at the disposal of the public. Such information cannot of course enable one to judge whether gold in paying quantities exists in any particular locality, but an exact knowledge as to the situation and extent of the main runs and of the old workings, will doubtless be of great help to intending prospectors.

It may also be desirable to establish an arrangement under which an intending prospector may find within easy reach the means for making small borings with diamond drills or other appliances. But this is of course a matter in which the Government will not be called upon to take action until a demand for such facilities springs up.

To sum up—the object which the Government have in view is, while affording the amplest facilities for prospecting operations, to restrict grants to such *bonâ fide* companies as are capable of working them, promoting thereby the influx of capital for the development of a most promising industry and placing it on a practical basis beyond the sphere of speculation.

Education.—The subject of education is one which the Government regard as of the foremost importance. Their policy may be briefly summed up as aiming at the following ends: to maintain unimpaired and in thorough efficiency all the means of elementary and secondary education, and to bring them within the reach of all classes both by direct agency and by assisting private effort; to promote a scholarly study of the local vernacular and of our ancient classical languages; to elevate and extend female education and to conduct it on a system strictly national so as to enlist popular sympathy in its progress; to encourage higher education and train young men for the professions of medicine, engineering, &c.

Of the means adopted by His Highness' Government for the attainment of the various objects in view, the following are some of the principal. A Mysore local examination has been instituted which will lend more importance to vernacular study; tests demanding high attainments in all branches of Sanscrit learning have been established in connection with the Sanscrit College at Mysore; aid on a large scale has been given to the Maharani's Girls' School which, from the soundness of its system, is attracting general attention as a model and a guide; the teaching staff of the English Colleges and High Schools has been strengthened with several men of special talent, while the pay and promotion of the masters generally have been placed on a footing calculated to encourage exertion and permanently to retain for the Department the services of an efficient staff; and liberal scholarships have been given to selected students of proved ability to go through a professional course in the large and fully equipped Medical, Engineering, Agricultural and Forest Colleges of British India.

Archæology.—Systematic archæological research began in Mysore in the beginning of the last year. The arrangements made provide for a complete examination throughout the Province of ancient inscriptions which are very numerous, and which, to judge from what have already been deciphered, promise to yield important results.

Regular archæological surveys have already been established in the neighbouring Bombay and Madras Presidencies, but it is believed that in Mysore, by its occupying an intermediate position, will often be found the key or connecting link to much that is being there discovered.

We have entrusted this important work to Mr. L. Rice, C. I. E., who by his high scholarly attainments and varied researches in Indian antiquities is specially qualified to do full justice to it. Up to the present time he has surveyed 18 taluks more or less completely, and collected upwards of 1,500 inscriptions. The results of what have been found will, from time to time, be issued from the Press where special arrangements have been made for the purpose. The Government feel confident that the researches now in progress will be the means of throwing much new and valuable light upon the interesting ancient history of Mysore.

Legislation.—In the Legislative Department, there is but little new work to report. Regulation I of 1886 (the Criminal Procedure Code Regulation) was passed into law in April last. In connection with this Regulation, the Government of India have been pleased to empower Police officers and Magistrates in this Province to exercise with respect to European British subjects, the same powers as are exercised by Police officers and by Magistrates other than Justices of the Peace, in British India beyond the limits of the Presidency Towns.

The Draft Revenue Code to which I referred last year, has been finally revised and submitted recently to the Resident. A Draft of the required subsidiary rules under this Regulation has also been prepared and is under consideration.

The Local Boards Regulation which was submitted to the Government of India by the late Officiating Resident Mr. C. E. R. Girdlestone, with an exhaustive Minute, has been received back, and is now under discussion.

Another Draft Regulation relating to Hackney Carriages in the Bangalore Town has been submitted for the approval of the Government of India.

A Draft of the "Mysore Law Amendment Regulation" has been prepared and is under discussion. It deals with all British enactments introduced into Mysore from time to time before the Rendition and provides for the verbal modifications required to adapt them to the altered circumstances of the Province after Rendition.

Drafts of Regulations on the subjects of 'Companies,' 'Prisons,' 'Prisoners' Testimony,' 'Administration of Municipalities,' and 'Administration of Forests' are also under consideration.

Anche or Local Post.—At the last Annual Meeting, I took occasion to bring to your notice two alternative proposals made by the Director General of the Post Office of India relative to the local Anche Department. One proposal was that the complete control of Postal arrangements in Mysore should be surrendered by the Durbar to the Imperial Postal Department, and that Mysore be treated in all postal matters exactly as if it were a British Province. The other alternative proposal was that Mysore should adopt all British Rules and Rates of postage and use British postage stamps overprinted "Mysore", that the Money Order, Insurance, Value payable parcel and other systems obtaining in British India, be introduced by Mysore, and that all paid inland correspondence, official or non-official, transferred from Mysore to British Post Offices or *vice versa* be delivered free. You were unanimously of opinion that the Department should be retained by the Durbar and worked, if necessary, at a loss. The Government of His Highness thereupon informed the British Resident that it considered it inexpedient to transfer the local Post to the Imperial system, but that it was ready to accept the other alternative proposal and to introduce into Mysore all the Rules of the Imperial Postal system and ensure complete reciprocity between the two Departments. To this communication a reply has been received to the effect that the alternative proposal in question has led to some practical inconvenience in the States to which it has been applied, and that until further experience of the system has been obtained, it will not be introduced elsewhere. The question therefore has had to be dropped for the present.

Before concluding this address, I may remind you that during the last year His Highness the Maharaja made his first tour through the Province since his assumption of the Government.

The route lay for the most part through the interesting Western Districts of Mysore where the conditions of climate and agriculture, the customs and manners of the people, are so different from those of other parts of the Province. His Highness feels that the opportunities afforded by a lengthened and leisurely progress through his dominions for seeing the people in their homes and surroundings, have added largely to his experience and to his knowledge of the country.

It is His Highness' command that I should take advantage of this meeting of the representatives of the people from all parts of the Province, to acknowledge how deeply he was impressed with the attachment and devotion manifested by all classes of his subjects. And it is his special desire that I should assure you that with the help of the insight into your wants and aspirations which a personal observation during the time passed in your midst has given him, he will devote his best energies to the promotion of measures calculated to advance your welfare.